

*Bromer, 09/708,658, AU 3724*

**REMARKS**

In further response to the Office Action mailed April 1, 2002, claim 7 is amended to reinstate "flatness." This is done as an after-thought, to prevent possible future over-zealous application of estoppel to claim 7. The Applicant does not disclaim flatness and wishes the claims to reflect that.

Examiner Boyer Ashly is thanked for the personal interview of July 3, 2002. The Applicant informed Examiner Ashly at the interview that the addition of the whereby clause adding "smooth" to claim 1 was intended to further the prosecution, as Williams' "RA" features lacks smoothness (as the Applicant argued). The Applicant does not acknowledge that Williams discloses either a specular surface or a smooth surface. The Applicant maintains that a specular surface will be generally smooth, but the converse need not be true; thus, even if Williams did disclose a smooth surface (admitted here only for arguments' sake), that would not imply a specular surface.

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

7. (Twice Amended) A blade comprising, on at least one side of the blade, a thin, hard plate including both a thickness and a flatness and/or a smoothness on the order of a light wavelength.

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 872-9302) on July 4, 2002.*

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Signature Nick Bromer